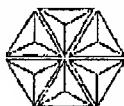


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TOTAL NUMBER OF PAGES INCLUDING THIS ONE: 2

DATE: 6/17/04

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF Yu et al.

APPLICATION NO: 09/994,012

EXAMINER: Rebecca Anderson

FILED: 11/16/2001

ART UNIT: 1626

FOR: Heterocyclic substituted 2-methyl-benzimidazole antiviral agents

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Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450**OFFICIAL**

Reply under 37 CFR 1.116

Sir:

We received the communication dated May 25, 2004 denying entry of a new claim under 37 CFR 1.312. Previous to this communication, the examiner sent a notice of allowance on 7/1/2003. The applicants request that the allowed claims be issued as a patent. The applicants will pursue method claims in a divisional application.

If any issues remain regarding the allowance of this application, the Examiner is respectfully invited to contact the applicants' agent, James Epperson, by phone (203-677-6974), fax (203-677-6900), or e-mail (james.epperson@bms.com).

Respectfully submitted,

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